

Signature [Signature] Date 7/12/00

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☒ (a) within three months of the filing date of the patent application, (b) within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 of the international application, or (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- ☐ **after** (a), (b), or (c) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, and includes:
- ☐ the Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (see "Certification" below).
- ☐ the fee of \$240 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☐ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, and includes the Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (see "Certification" below), a Petition requesting consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement (see "Petition" below), and the Petition Fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) (see "Fees" below).

Copies Of The References

- ☒ Copies of certain references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith. Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).
- ☐ A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ All references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 were previously identified in the parent application of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (<i>check one</i>)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

Other Applications

☐ The Examiner's attention is directed to the following U.S. patent application(s):

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (<i>check one</i>)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

Certification

- ☐ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application or, to the knowledge of the attorney signing after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Petition

- ☐ The undersigned attorney hereby petitions the Commissioner to consider this Information Disclosure Statement and the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

Fees

- ☒ No fee is owed by the applicant(s).
- ☐ The IDS Fee of \$240.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ The Petition Fee of \$130.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed herewith.

Method Of Payment Of Fees

- ☐ Attached is a check in the amount of \$ 240.00.
- ☐ Charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 in the amount of \$. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Authorization To Charge Additional Fees

- ☒ If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

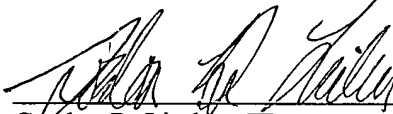
Instructions As To Overpayment

- ☒ Credit Account No. 02-2666.
☐ Refund

Respectfully submitted,

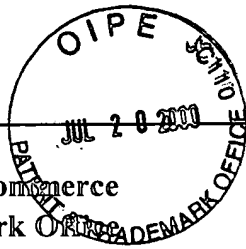
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 7/12/00



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US Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Form PTO-1449 (Modified)

Atty. Docket No.:
080398.P160

Application No.:
09/218,120

Applicant:
Kitsukawa, et al.

Filing Date:
December 21, 1998

US Patent Documents

Examiner's Initials	Date	Document Number	Name	Class	Sub- Class	Filing Date
		5,260,778	Kauffman et al.	358	86	06/26/90
		5,659,366	Kerman	348	460	05/10/95
		5,818,935	Maa	380	20	03/10/97
		5,500,681	Jones	348	473	05/24/94

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner's Initials	Date	Document Number	Country	Class	Sub- Class	Translation

Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	International Search Report, PCT/US99/30595, 4/6/00, 2pp.

Examiner

Date Considered

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (a))

Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (a). Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to the applicant.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

On July 12, 2000
Date of Deposit

April Worley
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

April Worley 7/12/00
Signature Date